



# DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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## NETWORK HEARS ENGLISH MODEL

CINCINNATTI -- Building support systems and augmenting resources emerged as major goals for the Total Ministry Network as 50 of its members gathered here for their regular meeting in early May.

Sponsored by the Office of Lay Ministry of the Episcopal Church Center and the Task Force for Total Ministry, the group -- lay and ordained Episcopalians from throughout the United States -- met at the Mercy Center to continue efforts to implement the concept of a ministry fully shared among lay and clergy that has become a major thrust of Episcopal Church work.

Dr. John Vincent, of the Urban Theological Institute of Sheffield, England, launched the exploration with an address on the "Christology of Ministry." The Institute is considered by many to be a model for activist urban ministry.

In the discussions that followed, participants agreed that the Church needed to find ways to build support systems for those seeking to implement the concept and hailed the "switchboard" that Dr. Anne Harrison of the Church Center staff described as a "catalogue of people and program resources" that is being developed.

The switchboard resources range from general introductions of the concept through training in specific skills and the group pressed for greater depth and utilization of it.

The group meets approximately every 18 months with participants meeting their own travel costs and the Lay Ministries Office paying for the Conference.

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